

Saxifraga paniculata* ssp. *neogaea

Status

Federal status: G5T5? N?, Not listed

NH state status: S1, Endangered

ME state status: S1, Special Concern

NEPCoP Division 2, regionally rare taxa with fewer than 20 occurrences in New England. Population status is unknown.

The current outcome for *Saxifraga paniculata* ssp. *neogaea* is A/B across its range. The current outcome for both Forests is B at best. The future outcome is likely to be the same as current. Single *Saxifraga paniculata* ssp. *neogaea* occurrence on the Forest has been known for many decades, indicating that it is persistent.

Distribution

Subspecies is circumboreal, south to New England, west to northern Great Lakes, Minnesota, and Saskatchewan. *Saxifraga paniculata* ssp. *neogaea* is at the southern edge of its range in northern New England.

In New Hampshire, this species is extant in Sargents Purchase, which is on the WMNF, and in Franconia, which is off the Forest. In Maine it is known from Piscataquis and Oxford Counties, but not on the WMNF.

Habitat

Saxifraga paniculata ssp. *neogaea* is a species of limy, seepy, open cliffs. It occurs in both seepy and drier (though not excessively dry) portions of the calcareous open rocks/cliffs habitat group defined by the expert panel. *Saxifraga paniculata* ssp. *neogaea* tends to have small populations that occur in small patches. In New England it is documented from 2000' elevation up into the subalpine zone.

Limiting Factors

Trampling from hiking and rock climbing is a current threat to this species. Single WMNF occurrence is secure from most threats, but not from rock climbing.

Succession is a current threat to the calcareous open rock habitat. Invasive exotic species and development are potential threats to this habitat.

Viability concern

WMNF manages one of the two known occurrences in New Hampshire. That occurrence could be impacted by rock climbing, which is increasing in popularity and can be managed by the Forest.

Management activities that might affect populations or viability

Rock climbing is the only threat to the known occurrence on the WMNF. Efforts to determine the extent of the population and limit rock climbing in that area would protect the species.

If it is located elsewhere on the Forest as more calcareous rock habitats are surveyed, additional management concerns could be identified.

References

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